

Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) is meant for supplementing the State Government efforts to accomplish State objective for providing water supply in small towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991/2001 census. Population of Chennai city is 43.43 lakhs as per 2001 census and does not fall under the purview of AUWSP.

(e) Government of India has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Chennai is one of the cities included under the same. Government of Tamil Nadu has forwarded projects for improvement of water supply under JNNURM. Government of India has approved one water Supply Project for Chennai on 24.11.2006 at an estimated cost of Rs. 322 crore.

Demand for financial assistance from Maharashtra for cities' development

†1004. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Maharashtra has demanded financial assistance for 50 projects for developing big and small cities including Nagpur;
- (b) if so, the projects out of these for development of Nagpur city;
- (c) the number of projects that have been sanctioned out of these so far; and
- (d) by when the sanction would be accorded to the rest of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) 85 projects including those in Nagpur have been received from the State Government of Maharashtra for assistance under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Under the scheme of Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), 16 projects have been approved by the Government.

(b) and (c) 16 projects have been received for Nagpur city for assistance

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

under JNNURM, out of which 6 projects have been sanctioned so far.

(d) Out of remaining 10 projects, 5 projects have been returned for modification and 5 are under appraisal by the Appraising Agency. These projects will be sanctioned as and when these are found technically acceptable.

Proposal to reduce Metro Train fare

1005. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of the Union Government to reduce the Metro Train fare in the capital to meet financial demand of the common man, in view of the high fare charges;

(b) if so, by when such fare is expected to be reduced for the benefit of the common man to increase the number of commuters; and

(c) how far Government would be benefited as a result of the reduction of fare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conversion of leasehold property to freehold

1006. SHRI VARINDAR SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA proposes to offer conversion lease hold properties both residential and commercial, allotted by it, to freehold on concessional rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the conversion rates both for residential and commercial properties, separately and by when the offer is expected to be made; and

(c) by when the project is likely to begin and be completed?